

Twice Tolloed Tales



AGEHR AREA II

Fall 2005

Message from the Chair

Kathie Bittenbender

Happy Holidays Area 2!

You've probably noticed this issue of *Twice Tolloed Tales* comes to you a little later than normal, but I hope you've also noticed it's on colored paper to stimulate your interest! We hope you will take the time to read and enjoy this new edition of our newsletter!

I'm excited to be writing to you for the first time as the new chair of Area 2. Area 2 is a very active area of AGEHR and we plan to continue that way. We think we have many great opportunities being planned for all of you!

Our **handchime lending program** has become a role model for many other areas. We have **many annual local festivals** for our members; Nittany Valley, Western PA, North Hills, Hudson Valley, and Central New Jersey to name a few. Our **mentoring program** for new choirs, as well as more experienced ones, is growing rapidly! Check our website often!

With many new board members, we are excited to serve you – our members. Our state Coordinator for **Handbells In Music Education (CHIME)** reps are working hard with the local state's music education groups. They are involved in the music conferences, often offering workshops. If you are a school which has a handbell or handchime choir, be sure to get on our list!

2006 is the year for our bi-annual **Read and Ring Seminar**. Mark your calendars now to attend **August 13 – 15** at the Split Rock Lodge in the Poconos of Pennsylvania. Two **fall workshops** will be held in each state next year. And New York – get ready! Our **Young Ringers and Festival Conference** will be held in **Oswego, NY June 26 – July 1, 2007**.

Although we are excited as a board, our job is to serve our membership. Many things are being planned and accomplished, but they are only as good as you make them. Your job is to become involved! Some of you could be mentoring, leading workshops, or starting new local festivals. I urge you to stay informed, ask questions if you have them, and become active if you aren't already. Together we can accomplish great things in Area 2!

I look forward to our next two years together. May you be richly blessed during the upcoming holiday season.

Ringings with you,

Kathie Bittenbender

AGEHR AREA II BOARD MEMBERS 2005-2007

ELECTED OFFICERS:**CHAIR**

Kathie Bittenbender
465 Rich Valley Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
Home: (717) 697-6257
Cell: (717) 805-2954
Email: rbittenben@comcast.net

CHAIR-ELECT

Christine Braden
328 Queens Court
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Home: (201) 447-2751
Work: (201)447-6232
Cell: (201) 248-0717
Fax: (201-251-9171
Email: bradenc@aol.com

PAST CHAIR

Peggy McNamee
5 Highland Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Home: (412) 761-8910
Fax: (412) 261-5955
Email: peggymc@malachy.com

TREASURER

Judy Dinkler
1300 Salem Road
Burlington, NJ 08016
Home: (609) 386-5770
Cell: (609) 707-3221
Email: JDinkler@verizon.net

SECRETARY

AnnaCarol Buffington
1142 Smithfield Circle
State College, PA 16801
Home: (814) 234-9069
Email: ACBuffington@adelphia.net

APPOINTED OFFICERS:**NJ STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Rob Kobus
1072 Kenyon Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060
Home: (908) 822-1360
Work: (908) 852-3020
Cell: (540) 470-0461
Fax: (908) 850-3290
Email: enchamadede@earthlink.net

NY STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Susan Guse
53 Marges Way
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Home: (845) 227-7696
Email: sguse@frontiernet.net

PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Martha Alford
128 Hunt Club Lane
Newtown Square, PA 19073
Home: (610) 355-7683
Cell: (610) 299-9174
Email: mkalford88@msn.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Reylene Starego
368 Heritage Drive
Brick, NJ 08723
Cell: (610) 739-2508
Work: (732) 477-5533
Church Fax: (732) 477-5013
Email: AndA1AndA2@aol.com

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Margaret Zabo
615 W. Meadowcroft Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Home: (412) 341-1356
Cell: (412) 491-8297
Fax: (412) 341-0602
Email: obaz615@adelphia.net

AREA II HISTORIAN

Janet Carlson
986 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Home: (717) 334-0222
Email: carlson986@aol.com

TTT EDITOR

Arthur W. Morgan
200 Shady Lane
Marlton, NJ, 08053
Home: (856) 983-9217
Email: mmarlton@juno.com

WEBMASTER

John Braden
328 Queens Court,
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Home: (201) 447-2751
Email: jbraden@worldnet.att.net

CHIME CHAIR

Jeremy Peters
171 Meigs Street, Apt 1
Rochester, NY 14607
Home: (585) 233-1451
Email: psbfan@rochester.rr.com

NJ CHIME REPRESENTATIVE

Gail Posey
16 Trim Road
Levittown, PA 19056
Home: (215) 949-3588
Email: gsposey@comcast.net

NY CHIME REPRESENTATIVE

Bob Ward
99 Sunny Brook Circle
Highland, NY 12528
Home: (845) 691-2124
RJWardNY@optonline.net

PA CHIME REPRESENTATIVE

Marcia Vanderslice
35 Gravel Pike
Red Hill, PA 18076
Home: (215)541-4130
Cell: (215) 9903693
Email: mlv961@nni.com

MENTORING COORDINATOR

Marilyn Shenemberger
415 Apple Road
Edgewater Park, NJ 08010
Home: (609) 871-8819
Email: handbelle@comcast.net

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Lynn Rapp
39 Honeysuckle Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
(717) 795-0627
Email: klsrapp@msn.com



www.area2agehr.org

www.agehr.org

TWICE TOLLED TALES is published four times per year for the membership of AGEHR Area II. Publication dates are March, June, September, and December. The deadline for articles and photos is the first day of the month prior to the publication date; these will be included as space permits.

It is preferred that articles be sent in the format of Microsoft Office 2000 Publisher as an email attachment. Articles may also be sent in hard copy form, type-written. Photos should be in black and white and be labeled on the back. A SASE should be included for those wishing to have their photos returned.

All information for publication and advertisements should be sent to the editor: Art Morgan 200 Shady Lane, Marlton, NJ 08053, mmarlton@juno.com

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of our new members to Area II.

Joan Argo
Dobbs Ferry, NY

Lee Hoyer-Bisignano
Ramsey, NJ

Diane Hankee
Station, PA

Jim Keefe
New York, NY

Earl Packard
Hornell, NY

Marsha Barber
Pittsburgh, PA

Lia Diorio
Zarethath, NJ

Bill Hemminger
Carlisle, PA

Melissa Miller
Elizabethtown, PA

Becky Richmond
Spring City, PA

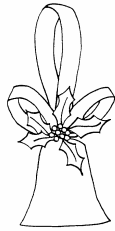
Evelyn Bisignano
Manahawkin, NJ

Helen Feaster
Liberty, PA

Carol Houghton
Morrisville, PA

Scott Morrowe
Tuckahoe, NY

Paula Rogers
Old Westbury, NY



Thought for Today

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RINGING IN ROMANIA

By Sarah Mischner

I never dreamed that teaching children how to play hand chimes as part of a mission trip through the International Children's Aid Foundation could really help them all that much-let alone orphans in a country I formerly only thought of in relation to Bram Stoker's Dracula. Sure they might enjoy it, but what kind of aid is it, really? What sort of aid could a seventeen year-old girl offer? Spending less than two weeks in Criscior, Romania, taught me how truly wrong I was.

From the very first time we set up the bells for a church service when we arrived, I could sense the fascination with the music and the instruments. The children all wanted to hold the chimes and make the music for themselves. Our first rehearsal with the kids was in the Baptist Church in Brad, a larger town scant minutes from what we referred to as home. We started with the Celebrated Cannon. I was paired with a girl about my age, Mirela, teaching her the part for her bass chime. I realized how important the music was to these people when she told me that everyone had been waiting excitedly for days, anticipating our arrival.

Their immediate love for us made the whole trip even more of a blessed experience for me. Nearly every spare moment I had was spent with the kids, from tiny Florin and Delia at Casa Emanuel (the orphanage in Criscior, where I stayed on the second floor) to Flavius (a boy a few years younger than me). The youngest loved to be held or played with, and show us how they could count to ten in English, while the older kids took part in global teenage rituals-hanging out and talking and laughing, telling us about their lives and asking about ours.

In the days that followed I spent hours upon hours working with the chime choirs, turning pages, teaching rhythm exercises, helping with technique, even teaching something I learned at the Area II Festival; Maori Sticks. From the smallest to the oldest, they eagerly soaked up the knowledge and the skills to create music. It was so amazing for me to see them so utterly appreciative and thankful for something I didn't even think would be helpful, and so wonderful to see how happy they became when they created music. As they learned their songs and practiced them, some would break into applause in joy at what they could do.

The room where we played bells was situated over a bakery (where we would all traipse to on a quest for a pretzel or a pastry filled with vanilla or chocolate) and across the street from the new Christian Center, under construction (and a little destruction) for the duration of our stay. Sometimes as we sat at lunch, my friends on the construction team would tell me how the music floated out the window and created a constant glorious undertone to their hammering and drilling with the songs "Come Christians Join to Sing" or "The Great Gate of Kiev" echoing out over the streets of Brad.

It hit me that, although I might not be working in the hospital clinic and I wasn't involved in the construction crew, I had a lot to offer. I still do. I think that the choice to go to Romania was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Knowing that my passion for music can help people on the other side of the globe was staggering, and at the same time uplifting. Feeling needed and appreciated by people who knew me for what seems a moment in the whole of a lifetime was so touching, as if God directed us to meet and aid one another. I offered music, they offered their open arms and hearts.

I think the ultimate moments of realization of how great a gift it was to meet and know and help these people came when the man who directs the Romanian arm of ICAF blessed us for coming to Romania, and when someone told me the words of a woman after hearing the children play a final beautiful concert — “This is music sent from heaven.”

EDITORS NOTE:

Sarah Mischner is a high school senior at Princeton Day School. She was a member of the handbell choir assembled by Marilyn Shenenberger to teach Romanian people to play the handchimes donated by Area 2. The other ringers included Judy Dinkler and her granddaughter Janine, Peggy McNamee and daughter Katie, Keith and Dottie Reed, Linda Westlin, Margaret Zabo, and Sarah’s mom, Jenny Mischner. In addition to teaching chimes, the choir played at a church service in Brad, in Hunedoara Castle, in a school in Criscior, and in the open-air band stand in a local park. The group’s first concert was impromptu-played on the Romanian-Hungarian border to ease the 9-hour delay caused by the loss of electricity incurred by a major storm. To quote Judy Dinkler “Fellow travelers served as music holders while we played and were as delighted as we were by the joy that music brings”.

SCENES FROM *RINGING IN ROMANIA*





AS A RESULT OF THE ROMANIA TRIP
BOARD VOTES FOR FIRST ENDOWMENT

As a result of the trip to Romania by a number of bell ringers in Area II, a grant from the newly created Endowment Fund has been provided to support the continuation of the program for teaching Hand Chimes in the Christian Center in Brad, Romania.

The grant provides a stipend for a year for a director. Several members of the mission team have also given support to the purchase of permanent tables in the center. Music and curriculum have also been provided. Marilyn Shenenberger, as the Area II Mentoring Chair, will provide assistance to the director upon request and receive his reports on a monthly basis. These on-going progress reports will be shared in Twice Told Tales.

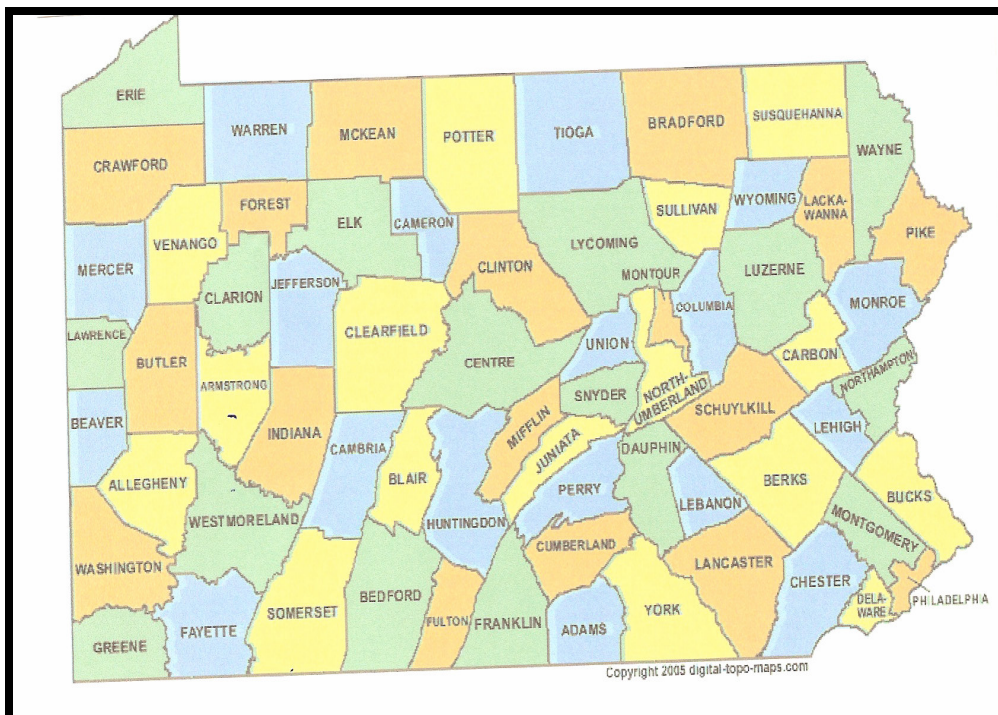
This is one of the first requests received for a grant from the Endowment Fund. More information on the criteria and how to apply can be found on the Area II website, www.area2agehr.org.

Area News!

PENNSYLVANIA STATE DISTRICT COORDINATORS

1. OPEN			Philadelphia, 191, some 190
2. Carolyn Biles	610-594-3856	raybiles@worldnet.att.net	South Philadelphia, 193, some 190
3. Laura McClennan	215-234-4635	mclennans@att.net	Northwest Philadelphia, 194, some 190
4. Ethel Geist	215-529-1603	egeist@comcast.net	Doylestown area, 189
5. OPEN			Allentown/Easton, 180, 181
6. Jim LaVoy	570-676-8548	LordJim424@hotmail.com	NE PA, 182, 183, 184, 185, 187, 188
7. Bobbi Schmid	717-627-0196	thezoo213@juno.com	Lancaster, 175, 176
8. Dottie Brown	610-582-8878	f5g5@aol.com	Reading, 195, 196
9. Shawn Gingrich	717-583-1922	smgingrich@blazenet.net	East of Harrisburg, 170
10. OPEN			Harrisburg, 171, 170
11. Laine Heltebridle	717-764-1562	laheltebridle@hotmail.com	York, 174, 173
12. Open			Shippensburg/Chambersburg, 172 173
13. Ellen Davis	570-326-5569	Musicminstjumc@aol.com	Williamsport/Bloomsburg, 177, 178, 179, 186
14. Patty Coldiron	814-342-5675	patcoldiron@adelphia.net	Altoona/State College, 166, 168
15. OPEN			Somerset/Indiana/Johnstown, 155, 157, 159
16. Marian Bates	724-537-6748	bates15650@hotmail.com	Uniontown/Greensburg, 154, 156
17. Ron Hann	412-229-0190	ministermusic@hotmail.com	Monessen/Washington, 150, 153
18. Roberta Erickson	412-828-0693	rw-rk.ernx@worldnet.att.net	Pittsburgh, 152
19. Sue Garton	724-794-4081	bgarton@pathway.net	North of Pittsburgh, 151, 160, 161, 162
20. OPEN			Kane/DuBois/Wellsboro, 158, 167, 169
21. Leslie Weber	814-833-9437	bachfan@adelphia.net	Erie, 163, 164, 165

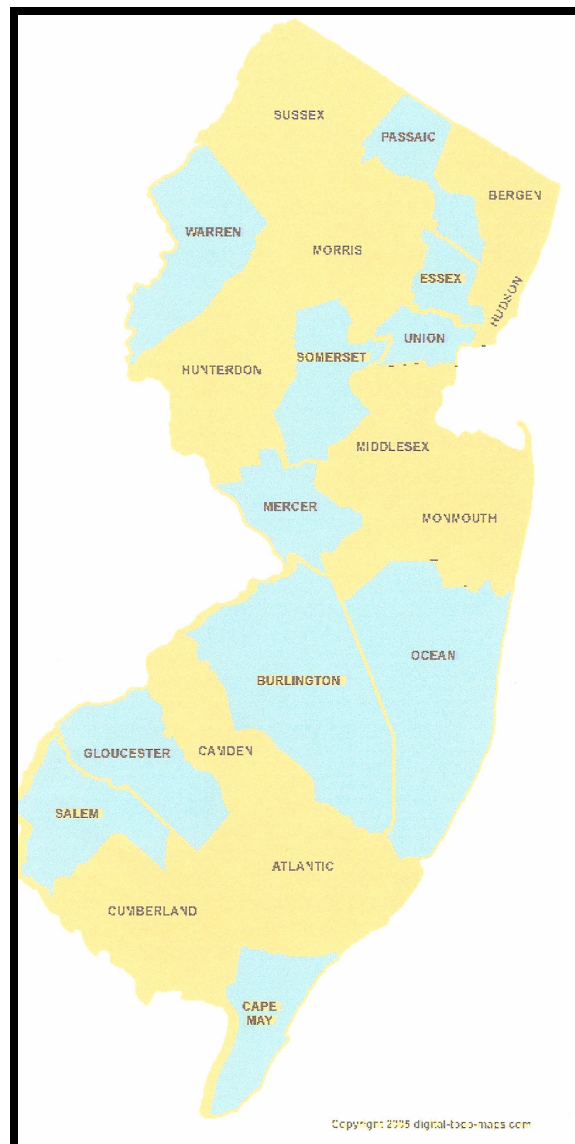
Pennsylvania State Showing Districts



NEW JERSEY STATE DISTRICT COORDINATORS

1. Art Morgan	856-983-9217	mmarlton@juno.com	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester
2. Susan Geiser	609-530-0628	scg218@comcast.net	Mercer
3. Shelley Giaier	908-832-7957	belshell66@aol.com	Hunterdon, Somerset
4. OPEN			Monmouth, Middlesex
5. Carl Loutzenheiser	973-267-1258	RingDuets@optonline.net	Morris, Sussex, Warren
6. John Slattery	973-450-5992	jslatt3275@aol.com	Essex, Union, Hudson
7. Joyce Aiken	973-742-3277	bellbasket@att.net	Bergen, Passaic
8. Barbara D'Ippolito	732-240-7868	dippolito04@comcast.net	Ocean
9. Chris Neff	610-522-1119	cneff122@Juno.com	Cape May, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic

New Jersey State Showing Districts



The Area II Endowment Fund

The Area II Endowment Fund, still in its infancy, continues to grow. This past year the first 3 awards were given from this fund. Churches in each one of the Area II states received grants totaling \$2500. (See the Spring 2005 issue of TTT)

Additions have been made to this fund from a variety of sources.

- Donations (\$45) in honor of our 45th Anniversary (see donor list elsewhere in this letter).
- Receipts (\$10) from National for Area II members donating \$51 to the National Endowment fund.
- Individual donations to the endowment fund.
- Participation fees from all local endorsed events (\$1.00 per participant.)
- Sale of Area II pins and 45th anniversary note cards.
- Offering from the recent Area II Festival Conference at Bucknell.

Currently, the Fund has a balance of \$32,600.00. Your Board looks forward to the growth of this fund and the ability it will give them to assist worthy groups throughout the area.

If you would like to make a donation to the endowment fund, please send your check to the newly elected treasurer: Judy Dinkler, 1300 Salem Road, Burlington, NJ 08016. All gifts will be acknowledged.

AGEHR—AREA II ENDOWMENT FUND GIFT

Name of Donor

Amount of Gift

In honor of or in memory of (please circle one)

**Mail to: Judy Dinkler
1300 Salem Road
Burlington, NJ 08016**

Additional Donors to the Endowment Fund

Contributions given in honor of:

Given By:

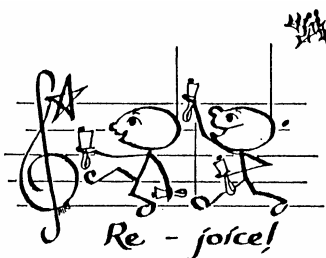
Peggy McNamee

Sue Garten

The Valley Forge United Methodist Church Ringers

Nancy Loane

If you would like to make a donation to the endowment fund, please send your check to: Judy Dinkler, 1300 Salem Road, Burlington, NJ 08016



**WATCH FOR 2006 READ & RING
INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
FORM IN A SEPARATE
MAILING IN MIDDLE
TO END OF DECEMBER**



WE NEED YOUR HELP! Area II is beginning to compile a database of schools within our area that have handbell and/or handchime programs. We also would like to know of schools that have handbells and/or handchimes that are not presently being utilized. We need you to call or email your State CHIME Representative at your leisure and share with them the following information: who you are, where you teach (school/district), whether or not you use handbells and/or handchimes in your program and how you use them. Four things...very easy, but essential for us to move ahead in our mission to get handbells and handchimes in music education. Also, if you know of any other schools in your area who have programs, please tell us about them, or pass along the information. Your State CHIME Rep's information can be found inside TTT or on our website at www.area2agehr.org

We also encourage you to stop by and see our booth at your state music educator conference. Come on over, introduce yourself and talk with your State CHIME Rep. They would love to meet you. We look forward to hearing from you, meeting with you and talking with you.

Jeremy Peters
CHIME Rep.

Just for the Holidays!

Holiday Greetings Cards

Send your holiday greetings handbell-style this year! Our attractive new 5" x 7" cards are sure to bring a smile even to non-ringers' faces. All cards come in packs of 12 with matching envelopes.

Candlelight Bell Card: A tranquil image, a burning candle reflecting in a bell casting, adorns this card. Inside: *May Your Holiday Season be Melodious and Bright.* Red envelopes.

5229 Candlelight Bell Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

Angel Bells Card: Original artwork of three angels singing to fill the air with music decorates this unique holiday message: *May the Voices of Angels Ring like Bells Throughout Your Holiday Season.* Gold envelopes.

5231 Angel Bells Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

"SleighBell" Card: This fun and playful card is definitely one of a kind! Santa rides on his "sleighbell" on his way to deliver toys to all the children! Inside: *When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But Santa riding a bell with his nine Reindeer! Merry Christmas!* Green envelopes.

5230 "SleighBell" Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

Handbell & Chime Ornaments

Our beautiful golden handbell ornaments are guaranteed to bring joy to ringers in the holiday spirit. Perfect as gifts as well! Handbell Ornaments ship and store flat, then can be opened into three-dimensional ornaments for your tree. Chime ornaments do not open, but will make a fantastic addition to the festivities!

5872	Handbells and Staff Ornament	\$6.00
5876	Handbell Christmas Tree Ornament	\$6.00
5874	Chime Snowflake Ornament	\$6.00
5875	Chime Messiah & Noel Ornament	\$6.00

Happy Holidays!
from
Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.

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www.HandbellWorld.com

AREA II BELLETIN BOARD

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	INFORMATION
March 25, 2006	Western PA Festival	Pittsburgh Area	Susan Simmons rosclark@earthlink.com	Michael Joy, Clinician
April 1, 2006	Nittany Valley Handbell Festival	State College, PA	Gail Ritchey GRitchey@aol.com	Valerie Stephenson, Clinician
April 29-30, 2006	North Hills Festival	Wexford, PA	Marilyn Hines mhinessrps@aol.com	Valerie Stephenson, Clinician
April 30, 2006	Central New Jersey Handbell Festival	Lawrenceville, NJ	Susan Lippincott suelipp@aol.com	Kermit Junkert
June 23-25, 2006	2006 National Festival	Dayton, OH	AGEHR Office	
August 13, 2006	2006 Area II Read and Ring Seminar	The Resort at Split Rock Lake Harmony, PA	Peggy McNamee 412-761-8910	David Weck L5-6 Monica McGowan L3-4 Tim Waugh L2-3 Michael Joy L1-2



Do You Know??

Are you aware of the many grants and scholarships Area II has to offer? The Betty B. Garee Scholarship is for first time attendees to Area Festivals and Seminars as well as National Seminars. The Charlie Cramer Scholarship is for non-ringing "roadies" who help to move all your bells and equipment.

Grants from the Endowment Fund can help to supplement your present set of handbells or handchimes, or to get you started buying them. Area II offers grant monies (up to \$250) to sub-areas who are trying to get an annual workshop and/or festival started. "Special grants" have been awarded to mission projects that have been undertaken by members of Area II. Area II has a very active Handchime Lending Program. Each state has several sets of handchimes to lend to schools or churches interested in starting a new handbell or handchime program. (See Chime Report on page 14.)

New to the Area is the Mentoring Program that can bring personalized handbell help to you, your church or your school. Area II will send a clinician to you for a workshop that addresses your particular needs!

How can you find out more about all of these? Check out our website www.area2agehr.org. You may download the necessary forms there. Not web-savvy? Then call or e-mail any Area officer! We'll send you a brochure and application.

Take advantage of all that Area II has to offer you!

BENEFITS OF HAVING YOUR EVENT ENDORSED BY AGEHR

Listed below are some of the advantages of having your event endorsed by AGEHR. The forms for doing this can be obtained from the National site of AGEHR on the internet. The forms should be mailed to Chair, Kathie Bittenbender at 465 Rich Valley Road, Carlisle, PA 17012, and she will forward them to National.

If we are able to grant your request for endorsement, your event will receive the following important benefits:

1. **Liability Insurance:** Your event is covered by the AGEHR umbrella liability policy (Call the Dayton office for details of the coverage). If the facility requires the form to include "additional-insured," there is a \$35 fee. See deadline note below.
2. **Borrowed Equipment Insurance:** Equipment you borrow for the event, including classes, is covered for you against loss due to theft or disaster by an AGEHR umbrella insurance policy. You are responsible for a \$1,000 deductible amount. Equipment provided by participants for use in massed ringing is not covered. See deadline note below.
3. **Site Insurance:** If your site requires that its name appear on the AGEHR policy, you must purchase a rider. (Call the Dayton office for details.) See deadline note below.
4. **Dishonesty Insurance:** Individuals who handle money for the event in an official capacity are covered by an AGEHR insurance policy. (Call the Dayton office for details.) See deadline note below.
5. **Performance Royalties:** Under the AGEHR license agreement with the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), performance royalties will be paid for you by AGEHR. See deadline note below.
6. **Mechanical Royalties:** Making audio recordings of concerts during your event are approved by the Handbell Industry Council (HIC). This applies only to official recordings made by your event sponsor, not to recordings made by individuals. All other audio and video recordings constitute an infringement of the U.S. copyright laws. You must, following your event, send statutory mechanical royalties and the Royalty Form to the publishers involved. See deadline note below.
7. **Advertising:** Your event will be listed in *Overtones*, the national journal of AGEHR, in your regional area newsletter, and on the AGEHR website (www.agehr.org). Contact the Dayton office and your area chair for deadlines. In your advertising materials you are required to state that your event is endorsed by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.
8. **Mailing Labels:** The Dayton office will, at no cost, provide for your use one set of the names and addresses of AGEHR members located in the appropriate market region of your event. You may select (a) mailing labels or (b) a data file. The Mailing Labels/Data File Request form will be attached. We encourage you to make use of this opportunity to promote your event.

Please note: To receive benefits 1,2,3,4,5, and 6 you must submit the required reports to the Dayton office no later than thirty (30) days following your event.

AGEHR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership in AGEHR comes in a variety of levels that reflect the intensity of the involvement in handbells. The following information is also available on the AGEHR website:

General Information

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers is a non-profit association providing valuable educational resources and events for handbell/handchime ringers and directors. The organization currently represents over 9100 members, including churches, schools, community organizations, and individuals.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the art of handbell/handchime ringing.

With your membership, you enjoy the following services:

- Local Support—Find out about local events and opportunities, and receive the newsletter for your area.
- Scholarships - Scholarships are available for area and national events.
- Chime Loan Programs (see Area II program on page 13).
- Mentors - Contact Judy Dinkler for more information

Support to Keep You Going

- National bi-monthly journal, *Overtones* - Every two months, you will receive *Overtones*, the nation's number one journal on handbell/handchime ringing.
- Members-Only Online - Access website content only available to members. Here you can search for contact information on fellow AGEHR members .

Help to Get You Started

- Handbell Notation Booklet—each new member will receive this vital resource book.

Membership Form—The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Membership Type

Platinum Membership \$175.00

Sterling Membership \$130.00

Regular Membership..... \$65.00

Ringer Membership..... \$30.00
Must be affiliated with a choir of a regular member.
Membership number of choir: _____

Senior Citizen Membership (65+)..... \$40.00
Individual membership, may not represent a group

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MENTORING REPORT

November 2006

New bells?

Take advantage of Area II's **Orientation/Getting Started Workshop**. It is offered free of charge to any choir who has recently purchased a set of bells (3 octaves or larger). **Our Mother of Sorrows** in Johnstown, PA and **Pleasantville Presbyterian Church** in NJ have taken us up on our offer, and both groups are off to a great start. Area II provides the clinician who will arrange a time convenient for you and your ringers; They will come to your facility, and work directly with your ringers on ringing basics, bell changes, and special techniques.

Same bells, new ringers? Old ringers need refurbished?

Area II also offers a **Mentoring Workshop** for a nominal fee for all choirs who would like to brush up on their skills and techniques. You decide what your choir needs most, and we will send a clinician to work with your group on those specific needs. Two mentoring workshops are scheduled so far, one for an elementary school who would like to incorporate chimes into their general music curriculum, and one for a church who purchased bells 4 years ago, and would like to hone their skills on stopped techniques, weaving, Shelley and 4-in-hand.

Your Area II Mentoring Chair is waiting to set up a workshop for your choir!

Contact Marilyn Shenenberger at

E mail: handbelle@comcast.net or phone 609-871-8819

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AREA II 2007 COMPOSITION CONTEST



2007 Young Ringers' Festival Composition

Prize: \$750

- An original handbell composition suitable for Young Ringers' massed ringing
- 2-3 octaves, AGEHR level 2 or 2+
- Optional handchimes or other instruments may be used

2007 Festival Conference Composition

Prize: \$1000

- An original handbell composition suitable for massed ringing
- 3-5 octaves, AGEHR level 3
- Optional handchimes or other instruments may be used

Deadline: May 1, 2006

Contest Rules

1. ONLY ORIGINAL, UNPUBLISHED WORKS MAY BE SUBMITTED. Entries may not be under consideration by any other contest or publisher while being considered by Area II.
2. Please use AGEHR publication *Handbell Notation and Grading System* as a reference guide for all compositional notation.
3. Composers may enter as many manuscripts as they wish, but each one is to be sent under a separate cover.
4. Send six (6) copies of the original piece on 8.5" by 11" paper. Include title, category, bells used chart, optional instruments, and duration. DO NOT INCLUDE THE COMPOSER'S NAME ON THESE COPIES.
5. Prepare a cover sheet containing title, composer's name, address, and evening telephone number.
6. Decision of the judges is final. Area II reserves the right to select entries that, in its sole judgment, are suitable for its festivals' purpose.
7. Winning entries will be performed at the 2007 Young Ringers' Festival and Festival Conference.
8. Area II will request a suitable dedication line when the composition is published. Area II reserves the right to be the sole dedicatee.
9. Winning compositions may not be played in any festival, neither area nor local, prior to the 2007 Area II Young Ringers' Festival and Festival Conference.
10. Area II adheres to copyright laws. Copyright obligations and adherence to copyright laws is expected of all composers.
11. **ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 1, 2006.**

Mail to: Kathie Bittenbender, Area II composition Contest, 465 Rich Valley Road, Carlisle, Pa. 17013
Questions? For questions, please Contact Kathie Bittenbender, (717)697-6257 Email: rbittenben@comcast.net



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